



Severe Weather Awareness Week



April 30th to May 6th, 2017

Severe Weather Safety

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Binghamton NY

Severe Weather Safety



Photo by Wendell Malone



Have a Plan!

Sometimes you may only have minutes to take action to get to safety when severe weather strikes!

Make a drill and practice!!!



Thunderstorm Safety

- Listen to the local news or your NOAA Weather Radio.
- When you're outside, keep a lookout for signs of a storm. Watch out for darkening skies, lightning or increasing winds.
- Avoid electrical equipment or corded phones.
- Stay away from windows.
- If you are driving and find yourself in a severe thunderstorm, pull off on the side of the road. Do not park under overpasses.
- Move into a safe building if you find yourself outside during a thunderstorm.

Photo: Barb McGilvray



Lightning Safety

**All Thunderstorms Produce Lightning
with usually no warning**



- Avoid being the tallest object
- Avoid standing next to tall objects such as trees and power line poles
- If you are in a group, spread out to avoid the current traveling between group members.
- If you are in a forest, stay near a lower stand of trees.
- If you are camping in an open area, set up camp in a valley, ravine or other low area.
- Stay away from water, wet items, such as ropes and metal objects.

Lightning: *What You Need To Know*

If outside...

- No place is safe outside during a thunderstorm.
- If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you.
- Wait 30 minutes after you hear thunder before resuming normal activities.

If inside...

- Stay off electrical equipment
- Avoid plumbing
- Stay away from windows and doors
- Do not lie on concrete floors or lean on concrete walls.



Flash Flood Safety

Flash Flooding can occur with little to no warning

Create a Communications Plan

It is very important during an emergency to communicate with your family and friends. Make a phone tree. Communication helps keep your mind at ease especially when a natural disaster occurs.



Create an Emergency Kit

It is good practice to have enough food and water to last you and your family for three days when an emergency strikes. Also, keep a first aid kit in case someone gets hurt. This kit should have foods that do not need refrigeration. Your kit should also have a battery powered radio along with extra batteries to remain informed.

TURN
AROUND
DON'T
DROWN

Flash Flood Safety

Always have a plan! Know what to do and where to go!!!

- ✓ Always stay informed
- ✓ Obey evacuation orders
- ✓ Practice electrical safety
- ✓ Plan for pets
- ✓ Avoid flood waters
- ✓ Avoid disaster areas
- ✓ Wait for the "All Clear" before returning to your homes or businesses
- ✓ Only 2' of water will move most vehicles
- ✓ 6" of water knocks you down
- ✓ Stay away from creeks and ditches

Don't underestimate the power of water!



6 inches of fast-moving water can knock over and carry away an adult.

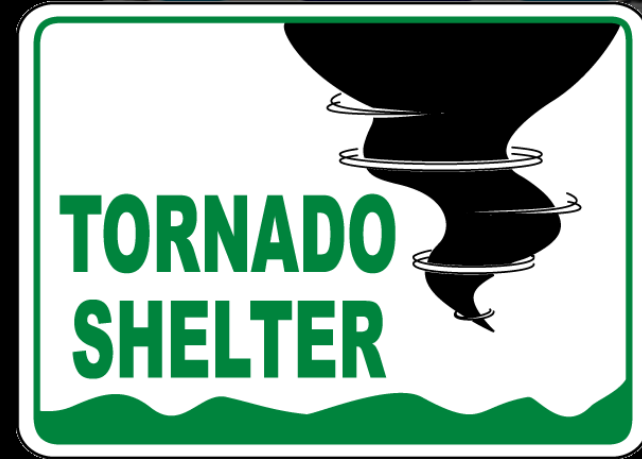
12 inches of fast-moving water can carry away a small car.

18-24 inches of fast-moving water can carry away most large SUVs, vans and trucks.



Tornado Safety

Tornadoes do occur in New York and Pennsylvania. Always have a plan.



Tornado Safety

Practice, Practice, Practice a tornado drill!!!!

Take Cover!!

Inside...

First choice: Basement!

Find an area of sturdy protection. Cover yourself with a sleeping bag or mattress.

Second choice: Lowest floor, center room.

Find a small room, away from windows, usually a bathroom/closet. Crouch as low as possible to the floor. Face downward cover your head with your hands.

If you are in a mobile home...

GET OUT! These are not safe. Have a plan!!!

Outside...

In a car:

Seek shelter in a sturdy building.
DO NOT hide under an overpass.

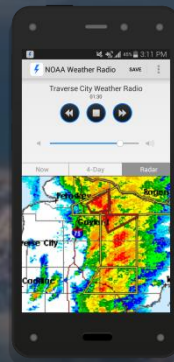
Open Outdoors:

Lie flat and face down on the ground. Protect the back of your head with your arms. Get as far away from trees and cars as you can.



NOAA Weather Radio

- Special radio with an audio alarm that goes off whenever the National Weather Service issues a warning for your area.
- Helpful, especially at night when you are not apt to be watching TV or listening to the radio.
- Affordable and can be bought at many locations.
- Could be a life saver someday!



WATCH vs. WARNING

CAUTION

- Check the forecast often
- Monitor the skies
- Know where to take shelter

DANGER

- Take shelter immediately!
- Seek further information
- Monitor the forecast

Watch- "Be Prepared"

Conditions are favorable for severe weather in or near the watch area. Watches are issued for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods.

Warning- "Take Action"

The severe weather event is imminent or occurring in the warned area. Warnings are issued for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, flash floods and river flooding. Issued by NWS Binghamton for central New York and northeast Pennsylvania.